

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 10, 12, 23-30, 34-35, 47-59, 61, 72-79, 83-84, 96-108, 119-125, 136-142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, and 164 as set forth below. All other claims are unchanged.

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A method for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a seven digit telephone number, comprising:

designating a destination area code;

the user ~~specifying dialing~~ a seven-digit telephone number;
and

causing said call to be signaled using the designated destination area code in combination with the ~~specified dialed~~ seven-digit telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said designated destination area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said seven-digit telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said seven-digit telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further

comprising:

determining that said designated destination area code is

not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to

be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further

comprising:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a

plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and

thereby selecting its associated area code; and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area

code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit

telephone number, without the user entering said selected area

code when ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further

comprising:

determining that said selected area code is not required to

properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to

be signaled without using said selected area code.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, said

associating said plurality of area code selectors with said

3 plurality of area codes comprising:

4 the user associating said plurality of area code selectors
5 with said plurality of area codes.

1 15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 changing at least one of the associations to a different
4 association.

1 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 the user changing at least one of the associations to a
4 different association.

1 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, said
2 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
3 plurality of area codes comprising:

4 a provider of telecommunications services associating said
5 plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area
6 codes.

1 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, said
2 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
3 plurality of area codes comprising:

4 computerized equipment associating said plurality of area
5 code selectors with said plurality of area codes.

1 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, said
2 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said

3 plurality of area codes comprising:

4 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
5 plurality of area codes based on an area code configuration.

1 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, said area
2 code configuration comprising area code overlays.

1 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, said area
2 code configuration comprising area code splits.

1 22. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, said
2 selecting one of said area code selectors comprising:

3 activating a predetermined data entry key.

1 23. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using digits
3 representing said selected area code in combination with digits
4 representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 24. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling
3 information representing said selected area code in combination
4 with signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialed
5 seven-digit telephone number.

1 25. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising using a call-originating device for: associating said
3 plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code
4 selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing
5 said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be

6 signaled.

1 26. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and
3 connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said
4 call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area
5 codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said
6 selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone
7 number, and causing said call to be signaled.

1 27. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising using telecommunications service provider equipment
3 separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in
4 combination with said call-originating device, for: associating
5 said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code
6 selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing
7 said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be
8 signaled.

1 28. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and
3 connected to a call-originating device, in combination with
4 telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and
5 connected to said customer premises equipment, in further
6 combination with said call-originating device, for: associating
7 said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code
8 selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing

9 said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be
10 signaled.

1 29. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled following the user
4 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 30. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting
4 that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user
5 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 31. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled as a result of the user
4 activating a predetermined data entry key.

1 32. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 designating one of said plurality of area codes to be said
4 designated destination area code.

1 33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, further
2 comprising:

3 designating one of said plurality of area codes to be said
4 designated destination area code using a "hot button."

1 34. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled following the user

4 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 35. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting

4 that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user

5 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 36. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising:

3 causing said call to be signaled as a result of the user

4 activating a predetermined data entry key.

1 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said

2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 the user designating said designated destination area code.

1 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising:

3 changing said designated destination area code to a

4 different designated destination area code.

1 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, further

2 comprising:

3 the user changing said designated destination area code to a

4 different designated destination area code.

1 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, further

2 comprising:

3 a provider of telecommunications services changing said
4 designated destination area code to a different designated
5 destination area code.

1 41. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said
2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 a provider of telecommunications services designating said
4 designated destination area code.

1 42. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said
2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 computerized equipment designating said designated
4 destination area code.

1 43. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said
2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 designating said designated destination area code to be the
4 same as an originating area code.

1 44. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said
2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 defaulting said designated destination area code to be the
4 same as an originating area code.

1 45. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said
2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 designating said designated destination area code to be
4 different from an originating area code.

1 46. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said

2 designating said destination area code comprising:

3 defaulting said designated destination area code to be

4 different from an originating area code.

1 47. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, said

2 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number comprising:

3 entering said seven-digit telephone number into a telephone

4 number entry device.

1 48. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, said

2 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number comprising:

3 retrieving said seven-digit telephone number from a memory.

1 49. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using digits

3 representing said designated destination area code in combination

4 with digits representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit

5 telephone number.

1 50. (currently amended) The method of claim 49, further

2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in

3 combination with said digits representing said designated

4 destination area code and in further combination with said digits

5 representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 51. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further

2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in

3 combination with digits representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-

4 digit telephone number.

1 52. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling
3 information representing said designated destination area code in
4 combination with signaling information representing said
5 ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 53. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, further
2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling
3 information representing a "1" in combination with said signaling
4 information representing said designated destination area code
5 and in further combination with said signaling information
6 representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 54. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling
3 information representing a "1" in combination with signaling
4 information representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit
5 telephone number.

1 55. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising using a call-originating device for: designating said
3 designated destination area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-
4 digit telephone number and causing said call to be signaled.

1 56. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and
3 connected to a call-originating device, in combination with a

4 call-originating device, for: designating said designated
5 destination area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit
6 telephone number and causing said call to be signaled.

1 57. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising using telecommunications service provider equipment
3 separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in
4 combination with said call-originating device, for: designating
5 said designated destination area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said
6 seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be
7 signaled.

1 58. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further
2 comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and
3 connected to a call-originating device, in combination with
4 telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and
5 connected to said customer premises equipment, in further
6 combination with said call-originating device, for: designating
7 said designated destination area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said
8 seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be
9 signaled.

1 59. (currently amended) A computerized system for simplifying
2 telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to
3 place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate
4 that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code
5 followed by a seven digit telephone number, comprising a user

interface, computerized processing, and computerized storage for:

designating a destination area code;

the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a seven-digit telephone number;

and

causing said call to be signaled using the designated

destination area code in combination with the ~~specified~~ dialed
seven-digit telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising
one or more of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal
call; the user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a
predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said
designated destination area code when ~~specifying~~ dialing said
seven-digit telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said seven-~~
~~digit telephone number in relation to telephone numbers~~
~~previously dialed by the user.~~

60. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
computerized storage for:

determining that said designated destination area code is
not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

61. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
computerized storage for:

4 associating a plurality of area code selectors with a
5 plurality of area codes;

6 the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
7 thereby selecting its associated area code; and

8 causing said call to be signaled using the selected area
9 code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit
10 telephone number, without the user entering said selected area
11 code when ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 62. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 determining that said selected area code is not required to
5 properly signal said call; and

6 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
7 be signaled without using said selected area code.

1 63. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 the user to associate said plurality of area code selectors
5 with said plurality of area codes.

1 64. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 changing at least one of the associations to a different

5 association.

1 65. (previously presented) The system of claim 64, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 the user to change at least one of the associations to a
5 different association.

1 66. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 a provider of telecommunications services to associate said
5 plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area
6 codes.

1 67. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 computerized equipment to associate said plurality of area
5 code selectors with said plurality of area codes.

1 68. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
5 plurality of area codes based on an area code configuration.

1 69. (previously presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said
2 area code configuration comprises area code overlays.

1 70. (previously presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said
2 area code configuration comprises area code splits.

1 71. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising:

3 data entry keys, wherein said area code selector is
4 specified by activating a predetermined one of said data entry
5 keys.

1 72. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled using digits representing
5 said selected area code in combination with digits representing
6 said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 73. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled using signaling information
5 representing said selected area code in combination with
6 signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-
7 digit telephone number.

1 74. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising:

3 a call-originating device for: associating said plurality of
4 area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting

5 | said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit
6 | telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

1 | 75. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 | comprising:

3 | customer premises equipment separate from a call-originating
4 | device, capable of connecting with said call-originating device,
5 | for, in combination with said call-originating device,
6 | associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of
7 | area code selectors, selecting said selected area code,
8 | ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing
9 | said call to be signaled.

1 | 76. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 | comprising:

3 | telecommunications service provider equipment separate from
4 | a call-originating device, capable of connecting with said call-
5 | originating device, for, in combination with said call-
6 | originating device, associating said plurality of area codes with
7 | said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected
8 | area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number,
9 | and causing said call to be signaled.

1 | 77. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further
2 | comprising:

3 | customer premises equipment separate from and capable of
4 | connecting with a call-originating device, in combination with

telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and capable of connecting with said customer premises equipment, in further combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

78. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled following the user ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

79. (currently amended) The system of claim 61, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

80. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled as a result of the user activating a predetermined data entry key.

81. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further

2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 designating one of said plurality of area codes to be said
5 designated destination area code.

1 82. (previously presented) The system of claim 81, further
2 comprising:

3 a "hot button" for designating one of said plurality of area
4 codes to be said designated destination area code.

1 83. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled following the user
5 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 84. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting
5 that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user
6 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

1 85. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled as a result of the user
5 activating a predetermined data entry key.

1 86. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 the user to designate said designated destination area code.

1 87. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 changing said designated destination area code to a
5 different designated destination area code.

1 88. (previously presented) The system of claim 87, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 the user to change said designated destination area code to
5 a different designated destination area code.

1 89. (previously presented) The system of claim 87, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 a provider of telecommunications services to change said
5 designated destination area code to a different designated
6 destination area code.

1 90. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 a provider of telecommunications services to designate said

5 designated destination area code.

1 91. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 computerized equipment to designate said designated
5 destination area code.

1 92. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 designating said designated destination area code to be the
5 same as an originating area code.

1 93. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 defaulting said designated destination area code to be the
5 same as an originating area code.

1 94. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 designating said designated destination area code to be
5 different from an originating area code.

1 95. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

defaulting said designated destination area code to be different from an originating area code.

96. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising:

a telephone number entry device, wherein said seven-digit telephone number is ~~specified~~dialed by entering said seven-digit telephone number into said telephone number entry device.

97. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising:

a memory, wherein said seven-digit telephone number is ~~specified~~dialed by retrieving said seven-digit telephone number from said memory.

98. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled using digits representing said designated destination area code in combination with digits representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

99. (currently amended) The system of claim 98, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in combination with said digits representing said designated destination area code and in further combination with said digits

representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

100. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in combination with digits representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

101. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing said designated destination area code in combination with signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

102. (currently amended) The system of claim 101, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for:

causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing a "1" in combination with said signaling information representing said designated destination area code and in further combination with said signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

103. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and

3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled using signaling information
5 representing a "1" in combination with signaling information
6 representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 104. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising:

3 a call-originating device for: designating said designated
4 destination area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit
5 telephone number and causing said call to be signaled.

1 105. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising:

3 customer premises equipment separate from a call-originating
4 device, capable of connecting with said call-originating device
5 for, in combination with said call-originating device:
6 designating said designated destination area code,
7 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number and causing
8 said call to be signaled.

1 106. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising:

3 telecommunications service provider equipment separate from
4 a call-originating device, capable of connecting with said call-
5 originating device for, in combination with said call-originating
6 device: designating said designated destination area code,
7 ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number and causing

8 said call to be signaled.

1 107. (currently amended) The system of claim 59, further
2 comprising:

3 customer premises equipment separate from and capable of
4 connecting with a call-originating device, in combination with
5 telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and
6 capable of connecting with said customer premises equipment, in
7 further combination with said call-originating device, for:
8 designating said designated destination area code,

9 ~~specifying~~ dialing said seven-digit telephone number and causing
10 said call to be signaled.

1 108. (currently amended) A method for simplifying telephonic
2 calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an
3 operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the
4 user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with
5 a seven digit telephone number, comprising:

6 associating a plurality of area code selectors with a
7 plurality of area codes;

8 the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
9 thereby selecting its associated area code;

10 the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a seven-digit telephone number;
11 and

12 causing said call to be signaled using the selected area
13 code in combination with said ~~specified~~ dialed seven-digit

telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more
of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal call; the
user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a predetermined
timing delay; without the user entering said selected area code
when ~~specifying dialing~~ said seven-digit telephone number, ~~and~~
~~without analyzing said seven-digit telephone number in relation~~
~~to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

109. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, further
comprising:

determining that said selected area code is not required to
properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
be signaled without using said selected area code.

110. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, said
associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
plurality of area codes comprising:

the user associating said plurality of area code selectors
with said plurality of area codes.

111. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, further
comprising:

changing at least one of the associations to a different
association.

112. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further
comprising:

the user changing at least one of the associations to a different association.

113. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising:

a provider of telecommunications services associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes.

114. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising:

computerized equipment associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes.

115. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising:

associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes based on an area code configuration.

116. (previously presented) The method of claim 115, said area code configuration comprising area code overlays.

117. (previously presented) The method of claim 115, said area code configuration comprising area code splits.

118. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, said selecting one of said area code selectors comprising:

activating a predetermined data entry key.

119. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using digits representing said selected area code in combination with digits representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

120. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing said selected area code in combination with signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialled seven-digit telephone number.

121. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising using a call-originating device for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

122. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

123. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further

comprising using telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

124. (currently amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and connected to said customer premises equipment, in further combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

125. (currently amended) A computerized system for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a seven digit telephone number, comprising a user interface, computerized processing, and computerized storage for: associating a plurality of area code selectors with a

8 plurality of area codes;
9 the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
10 thereby selecting its associated area code;
11 the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a seven-digit telephone number;
12 and
13 causing said call to be signaled using the selected area
14 code in combination with said ~~specified-dialed~~ seven-digit
15 telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more
16 of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal call; the
17 user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a predetermined
18 timing delay; without the user entering said selected area code
19 when ~~specifying-dialing~~ said seven-digit telephone number, ~~and~~
20 ~~without analyzing said seven-digit telephone number in relation~~
21 ~~to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

1 126. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 determining that said selected area code is not required to
5 properly signal said call; and

6 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
7 be signaled without using said selected area code.

1 127. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 the user to associate said plurality of area code selectors
5 with said plurality of area codes.

1 128. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 changing at least one of the associations to a different
5 association.

1 129. (previously presented) The system of claim 128, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 the user to change at least one of the associations to a
5 different association.

1 130. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 a provider of telecommunications services to associate said
5 plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area
6 codes.

1 131. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 computerized equipment to associate said plurality of area
5 code selectors with said plurality of area codes.

1 132. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further

2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 associating said plurality of area code selectors with said
5 plurality of area codes based on an area code configuration.

1 133. (previously presented) The system of claim 132, wherein
2 said area code configuration comprises area code overlays.

1 134. (previously presented) The system of claim 132, wherein
2 said area code configuration comprises area code splits.

1 135. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising:

3 data entry keys, wherein said area code selector is
4 specified by activating a predetermined one of said data entry
5 keys.

1 136. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled using digits representing
5 said selected area code in combination with digits representing
6 said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number.

1 137. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and
3 said computerized storage for:

4 causing said call to be signaled using signaling information
5 representing said selected area code in combination with

6 | signaling information representing said ~~specified~~dialed seven-
7 | digit telephone number.

1 | 138. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
2 | comprising:

3 | a call-originating device for: associating said plurality of
4 | area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting
5 | said selected area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit
6 | telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled.

1 | 139. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
2 | comprising:

3 | customer premises equipment separate from a call-originating
4 | device, capable of connecting with said call-originating device,
5 | for, in combination with said call-originating device,
6 | associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of
7 | area code selectors, selecting said selected area code,
8 | ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing
9 | said call to be signaled.

1 | 140. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
2 | comprising:

3 | telecommunications service provider equipment separate from
4 | a call-originating device, capable of connecting with said call-
5 | originating device, for, in combination with said call-
6 | originating device, associating said plurality of area codes with
7 | said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected

area code, ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number,
and causing said call to be signaled.

141. (currently amended) The system of claim 125, further
comprising:

customer premises equipment separate from and capable of
connecting with a call-originating device, in combination with
telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and
capable of connecting with said customer premises equipment, in
further combination with said call-originating device, for:
associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of
area code selectors, selecting said selected area code,
~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and causing
said call to be signaled.

142. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a
set of instructions executable by a computerized system for
simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any
digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to
indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area
code together with a seven digit telephone number, said computer-
readable medium comprising one or more instructions for:

designating a destination area code;
the user ~~specifying~~dialing a seven-digit telephone number;
and
causing said call to be signaled using the designated

destination area code in combination with the ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said designated destination area code when ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said seven-digit telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

143. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 142, further comprising one or more instructions for:
determining that said designated destination area code is not required to properly signal said call; and
as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

144. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 142, further comprising one or more instructions for:
associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes;
the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code; and
causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number, without the user entering said selected area

code when ~~specifying~~dialing said seven-digit telephone number.

145. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 144, further comprising one or more instructions for:

determining that said selected area code is not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said selected area code.

146. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a set of instructions executable by a computerized system for

simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a seven digit telephone number, said computer-readable medium comprising one or more instructions for:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code;

the user ~~specifying~~dialing a seven-digit telephone number; and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed seven-digit telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said seven digits having been dialed as a legal call; the

18 user dialing an eighth key; or the elapsing of a predetermined
19 timing delay; without the user entering said selected area code
20 ~~when specifying dialing said seven-digit telephone number, and~~
21 ~~without analyzing said seven-digit telephone number in relation~~
22 ~~to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

1 147. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of
2 claim 146, further comprising one or more instructions for:
3 determining that said selected area code is not required to
4 properly signal said call; and
5 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
6 be signaled without using said selected area code.

1 148. (currently amended) A method for simplifying telephonic
2 calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an
3 operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the
4 user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with
5 a destination telephone number, comprising:

6 designating a destination area code;
7 the user ~~specifying dialing~~ a destination telephone number;
8 and

9 causing said call to be signaled using the designated
10 destination area code in combination with the ~~specified-dialed~~
11 destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising
12 one or more of: said destination telephone number having been
13 dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in

14 addition to said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of
15 a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said
16 designated destination area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said
17 destination telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said~~
18 ~~destination telephone number in relation to telephone numbers~~
19 ~~previously dialed by the user.~~

1 149. (previously presented) The method of claim 148, further
2 comprising:

3 determining that said designated destination area code is
4 not required to properly signal said call; and

5 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
6 be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

1 150. (currently amended) The method of claim 148, further
2 comprising:

3 associating a plurality of area code selectors with a
4 plurality of area codes;

5 the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
6 thereby selecting its associated area code; and

7 causing said call to be signaled using the selected area

8 code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed destination

9 telephone number, without the user entering said selected area

10 code when ~~specifying~~dialing said destination telephone number.

1 151. (previously presented) The method of claim 150, further
2 comprising:

determining that said selected area code is not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said selected area code.

152. (currently amended) A computerized system for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a destination telephone number, comprising a user interface, computerized processing, and computerized storage for:

designating a destination area code;

the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a destination telephone number;

and

causing said call to be signaled using the designated destination area code in combination with the ~~specified~~ dialed destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said destination telephone number having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in addition to said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said designated destination area code when ~~specifying~~ dialing said destination telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said destination telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

1 153. (previously presented) The system of claim 152, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 determining that said designated destination area code is
5 not required to properly signal said call; and

6 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
7 be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

1 154. (currently amended) The system of claim 152, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 associating a plurality of area code selectors with a
5 plurality of area codes;

6 the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
7 thereby selecting its associated area code; and

8 causing said call to be signaled using the selected area

9 code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed destination

10 telephone number, without the user entering said selected area

11 code when ~~specifying~~dialing said destination telephone number.

1 155. (previously presented) The system of claim 154, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 determining that said selected area code is not required to
5 properly signal said call; and

6 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to

be signaled without using said selected area code.

156. (currently amended) A method for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a destination telephone number, comprising:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code;

~~the user specifying dialing~~ a destination telephone number; and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said ~~specified-dialed~~ destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said destination telephone number having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in addition to said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said selected area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said destination telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said destination telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously dialed by the user.~~

157. (previously presented) The method of claim 156, further

comprising:

determining that said selected area code is not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said selected area code.

158. (currently amended) A computerized system for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a destination telephone number, comprising a user interface, computerized processing, and computerized storage for:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code;

the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a destination telephone number; and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said ~~specified-dialed~~ destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said destination telephone number having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in addition to said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said

selected area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said destination
telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said destination~~
~~telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously~~
~~dialed by the user.~~

159. (previously presented) The system of claim 158, further
comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
computerized storage for:

determining that said selected area code is not required to
properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
be signaled without using said selected area code.

160. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a
set of instructions executable by a computerized system for
simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any
digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to
indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area
code together with a destination telephone number, said computer-
readable medium comprising one or more instructions for:

designating a destination area code;

the user ~~specifying dialing~~ a destination telephone number;
and

causing said call to be signaled using the designated
destination area code in combination with the ~~specified-dialed~~
destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising

one or more of: said destination telephone number having been
dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in
addition to said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of
a predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said
designated destination area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said
destination telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said~~
~~destination telephone number in relation to telephone numbers~~
~~previously dialed by the user.~~

161. The computer-readable medium of claim 160, further
comprising one or more instructions for:

determining that said designated destination area code is
not required to properly signal said call; and
as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
be signaled without using said designated destination area code.

162. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim
160, further comprising one or more instructions for:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a
plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and
thereby selecting its associated area code; and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area
code in combination with said ~~specified~~dialed destination
telephone number, without the user entering said selected area
code when ~~specifying~~dialing said destination telephone number.

163. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 162, further comprising one or more instructions for:
determining that said selected area code is not required to properly signal said call; and

as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said selected area code.

164. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a set of instructions executable by a computerized system for simplifying telephonic calling where the user has not dialed any digits to place an operator call and has not dialed any digits to indicate that the user is dialing a complete, unabbreviated area code together with a destination telephone number, said computer-readable medium comprising one or more instructions for:

associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes;

the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code;

the user ~~specifying~~ dialing a destination telephone number;
and

causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said ~~specified~~ dialed destination telephone number, based on an occurrence comprising one or more of: said destination telephone number having been dialed as a legal call; the user dialing an additional key in addition to

19 said destination telephone number; or the elapsing of a
20 predetermined timing delay; without the user entering said
21 selected area code when ~~specifying dialing~~ said destination
22 telephone number, ~~and without analyzing said destination~~
23 ~~telephone number in relation to telephone numbers previously~~
24 ~~dialed by the user.~~

1 165. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of
2 claim 164, further comprising one or more instructions for:
3 determining that said selected area code is not required to
4 properly signal said call; and

5 as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to
6 be signaled without using said selected area code.

1 166. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 providing a prompt advising the user of the association
4 between said area code selectors and their associated area codes;
5 and

6 the user selecting one of said area code selectors in
7 response to said prompt.

1 167. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 providing a prompt advising of the association between said
5 area code selectors and their associated area codes; and

6 selecting one of said area code selectors in response to
7 said prompt.

1 168. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, further
2 comprising:

3 providing a prompt advising the user of the association
4 between said area code selectors and their associated area codes;
5 and

6 the user selecting one of said area code selectors in
7 response to said prompt.

1 169. (previously presented) The system of claim 125, further
2 comprising said user interface, computerized processing, and
3 computerized storage for:

4 providing a prompt advising of the association between said
5 area code selectors and their associated area codes; and

6 selecting one of said area code selectors in response to
7 said prompt.